Iqbal Explore Response

I have finished reading chapter 1 of a book called Iqbal. It is about Fatima and Iqbal who work in a carpet factory because of debt and bonded labour. The story takes place in Pakistan. The book that we are reading is a realistic fiction novel called Iqbal by Francesco D’Adamo.

The purpose of the author writing this book is to make people more aware of child labour and hoe the children work and feel. I am reading this book to learn about child labour and how it effects the world. The purpose of chapter 1 is to introduce the main characters and the problem of the story.

Some key lines in the book are, “Then we were allowed to pass –one by one- behind the filthy curtain that hid the Turkish toilet at the back of the big room where our looms and benches stood in rows.”pg.3. This line is important because it tells about the children’s working conditions. The working conditions aren’t very pleasing. They have to squat to use the toilet and they don’t have much privacy. Some important characters are Fatima, Hussain Khan, the numbskulls, and Iqbal. They are important because they are the protagonists. Pakistan and Carpet Factory are important places because that is where the story takes place.

The book was organized into chapters that were numbered and that made it harder for me to understand because it did not give me a name in the chapter to anticipate what it was going to be about. What helped me was how the paragraphs were organized. They were broken up and it wasn’t as overwhelming as one big paragraph.

I can relate to this book because Fatima and I both work. But she works behind a loom while I work behind a desk.I do homework and she makes carpets. I can take tests and exams and Fatima won’t get to do that because of child labour.

One of my ah-ha moments was when Hussain started drawing lines on the Fatima’s chalkboard and I was wondering why he was doing that. Then he said,”I’ll give you a rupee every day you work”pg.4. That made it clear to me why he drew the lines on Fatima’s chalkboard.